

Message Text

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ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 DODE-00 /026 W

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R 051415Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7446

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: MILI, DM

SUBJ: LAWS GOVERNING FIREARM IMPORTATION IN DAHOMEY

REF STATE 177789

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF PREVAILING VIEWS GOVERNING FIRE-
ARM AND AMMUNITION IMPORTATION IN DAHOMEY:

A. CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION OF IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS IS
REQUIRED.

B. CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED BY MIN OF INTERIOR AND YKIRITY.

C. COMMERCIAL CONSIGNEE FOR FIREARM SHIPMENT CAN OBTAIN
IMPORT AUTHORIZATION CERTIFICATE
ON APPLICATION TO MINISTRY
OF INTERIOR. APPLICATIONS MUST CONTAIN FULL DETAILS ON TYPE OF
ARMS TO BE IMPORTED AND DISPOSITION AFTER IMPORTATION INTO
DAHOMEY. AS FAR AS POST COULD ASCERTAIN, THERE ARE NO FIXED
CRITERIA ON
ELIGIBILITY FOR SUCH CERTIFICATES; APPLICATIONS
ARE APPROVED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

D. AFTER IMPORTATION, COMMERCIAL IMPORTER IS ALLOWED TO
RE-SELL FIREARMS ONLY TO PERSONS HOLDING PERMIT TO CARRY
ARMS. THIS PERMIT IS AUTHORIZED BY MIN OF INTERIOR; APPLI-
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CATIONS FOR THIS PERMIT ARE ALSO DECIDED
ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

2. FYI: COMMERCIAL IMPORTS OF FIREARMS INTO DAHOMEY ARE
NEGLECTIBLE. THERE ARE NO WHOLESALE GUN DEALERS HERE: GUNS
HAVE BEEN IMPORTED THROUGH THE LE TO INDIVIDUALS BY AT LEAST ONE
FREIGHT FORWARDING/AGENCY;; NORMALLY, PERMIT TO CARRY
ARMS ONLY GRANTED IN CASES OF HUNTING RIFLES. (DAHOMEY
PERMITS BIG-GAM HUNTING IN ITS NATIONAL HUNTING RESERVES)
OR FOR SMALL FIREARMS FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION, BUT CURRENT
LEADERSHIP IN DAHOMEY LIKELY TO BE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO GRANT
ANY NEW AUTHORIZATIONS. AS FOR COMMERCIAL SALES FROM THE US,
POST ESTIMATES THAT PROSPECTS ARE NIL. END FYI.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, LAW, POLICIES, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COTONO01127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750268-0997
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750879/aaaacria.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION MC
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 177789
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAWS GOVERNING FIREARM IMPORTATION IN DAHOMEY
TAGS: MILI, DM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006